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NPIC/P&DS/D/6-\_\_\_\_\_

21 February 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Development Branch, P&DS

SUBJECT: [REDACTED] Briefing Print Enlarger (BPE)  
Prototype and NPIC Briefings to the Community

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1. On 16 February 1966, [REDACTED] visited the  
Naval Reconnaissance Technical Support Center (NRTSC) at Suitland in order  
to present a briefing on the BPE "breadboard" and prospective prototype  
model. This briefing had been requested by NRTSC on the basis of informa-  
tion received from COPE concerning the project.

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2. The briefing (using screen projector and mounted prints of samples  
of each lens) was very well received. Those present included:

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3. NRTSC [REDACTED] stated that they had an immediate as well as  
future use for the BPE. He requested time and cost factors. The  
following were given:

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a. "Breadboard" was completed in January at a cost of [REDACTED]

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b. Prototype model was authorized to be started in December 1965.

c. Prototype cost would be about [ ] plus the cost of the lens system (about [ ] NPIC is using the "breadboard" lens system in the prototype. Time factor: 15 months for prototype.

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d. Production models could be started after the prototype is completed at prices (ROM) listed in handout (generally about 1/3 the cost of the prototype.) Time factor: 15 months.

e. Additional lens system development, 60X-160X, would run parallel to the prototype development and would be available at a greater cost--not yet determined. Time factor: about 18 months.

4. [ ] expressed dismay at the time factors. He stated that NRTSC had scheduled basic requirements for a fluid gate enlarger such as the BPE for the past three years. He knew that NPIC, as a leader in the field, had such a development going and NRTSC depended upon a device being developed and had not, therefore entered the field. Funds had been scheduled by Navy against such a development under the leadership of CIA. NRTSC had assumed that our "breadboard" was the prototype, and that production models were to come forth within about a year. (It appears that the first production model would be ready, under the [ ] schedule, in 30 or 36 months! That would be about June 1968 at the earliest!) In spite of the costs, NRTSC would happily consider buying a prototype (or buying part of it!); furthermore, there is the probability that other agencies would do the same if [ ] would alter their schedule and reduce the costs.

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5. As a result of the visit at NRTSC, I recommend that COPE be the medium for canvassing the community to find those agencies interested in

pressuring ☐ to undertake a program to develop x-number of prototypes in the near future at a reduced cost and at an optimum scheduled time factor. It would do no harm to learn the number of agencies desiring the BPE's and an estimate of the total quality. ☐ should certainly be able to change costs, expected end-product quality, and time factors if they had firm offers for their product. The questions could be posed: "Is the need for the BPE for the immediate future great enough to sacrifice some quality and at the same time pay more for the device? Does the community desire prototypes in FY-1967 or production models in FY-1968-9? How much responsibility will NPIC take in funding for additional prototype models? Is COPE the proper medium to inquire into and collect the desires of the community and advise in the preparation of the requests for BPE's directly to ☐ (Should this be the decision of member agencies)? It is assumed that NPIC would be involved only with procurement procedures (upon the request of other agencies) for additional BPE's and in the monitoring of the project. Changes in design, or additional or subtractive requirements of the prototype by other agencies should not be the concern of NPIC.

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\* This parenthetical statement means, in other words: The agencies will collectively agree that they would present a unified request for a total of x-number of BPE's to ☐ requesting new cost estimates and time factors. COPE, as a unifying medium, would ask for, and collect, answers from the community as to the interest in, and number of BPE "prototypes" desired.

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